



# Letter Knowledge

**Knowing the names and sounds of letters helps children figure out how to say written words. To help develop letter knowledge:**

- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often and have them write their names in their own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with blocks that have letters on them, magnetic letters, and read alphabet books together.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs or labels.
- Play "I Spy" with letters in the car. Older children can find the letters in order from A to Z in license plates and signs.
- Encourage your child to make letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles, or form the shapes with their bodies or other objects.
- Write words that interest your child (like dinosaur, truck, or mom) using crayons or magnetic letters.
- Recognize that children learn letter-sound relationships at different rates. Avoid "drilling" children on letters. Have fun with it.

**Children appear to acquire letter knowledge in a sequence that begins with letter names, then letter shapes, and finally letter sounds.**

